

What is claimed is:

1 1. A wireless device comprising:
2 a user interface;
3 a controller to control operation of said wireless device, said controller being in
4 communication with said user interface to accept input from a user and to deliver output
5 to said user; and
6 a wireless transceiver to support wireless communication with at least one
7 remote wireless entity;
8 wherein said controller is programmed to append context-specific information
9 to a network search query to be delivered to a remote search engine via said wireless
10 transceiver when said user is performing a network search.

1 2. The wireless device of claim 1, further comprising:
2 at least one sensor for sensing context-specific information in an environment
3 about said wireless device.

1 3. The wireless device of claim 1, wherein:
2 said context-specific information includes at least one of the following: a
3 physical location of said wireless device, a present time at said wireless device, a
4 temperature about said wireless device, a velocity of said wireless device, atmospheric
5 pressure about said wireless device, biometric information regarding a user of said
6 wireless device, ambient light about said wireless device, ambient noise level about said
7 wireless device, a sound profile about said wireless device, an image of an environment
8 about said wireless device, a chemical analysis of an environment about said wireless
9 device, a personal profile of a user of said wireless device, schedule information
10 associated with a user of said wireless device, and calendar information associated with
11 a user of said wireless device.

1 4. The wireless device of claim 1, wherein:
2 said user interface includes at least one of the following: a display, a keypad, a
3 keyboard, a touch screen, a stylus, a mouse, scroll buttons, a track ball, a joystick, and
4 control buttons.

1 5. The wireless device of claim 1, wherein:
2 said controller is programmed to (a) receive search results from said remote
3 search engine, via said wireless transceiver, in response to said network search query,
4 said search results including an indication of which elements of context-specific
5 information that were appended to said network search query were used to perform the
6 network search, and (b) display said search results to a user.

1 6. The wireless device of claim 5, wherein:
2 said controller is programmed to (a) receive a selection of context-specific
3 information types from said user, via said user interface, indicating which context-
4 specific information said user desires to be used to perform a network search, and (b)
5 deliver said selection of context-specific information types to said remote search
6 engine, via said wireless transceiver, for use in another network search.

1 7. The wireless device of claim 1, wherein:
2 said wireless device is a cellular telephone.

1 8. The wireless device of claim 1, wherein:
2 said wireless device is a personal digital assistant with wireless networking
3 capability.

1 9. The wireless device of claim 1, wherein:
2 said wireless device is a portable computer with wireless networking capability.

1 10. The wireless device of claim 1, wherein:
2 said network search includes an Internet search.

1 11. A method comprising:
2 detecting initiation of a network search within a wireless device;
3 collecting context-specific information regarding said wireless device; and
4 appending context-specific information to a search query to be delivered to a
5 remote search engine.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information regarding said wireless device includes
3 collecting at least one of the following: a physical location of said wireless device, a
4 present time at said wireless device, a temperature about said wireless device, a velocity
5 of said wireless device, atmospheric pressure about said wireless device, biometric
6 information regarding a user of said wireless device, ambient light about said wireless
7 device, ambient noise level about said wireless device, a personal profile of a user of
8 said wireless device, schedule information associated with a user of said wireless
9 device, and calendar information associated with a user of said wireless device.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information regarding said wireless device includes
3 polling at least one sensor associated with said wireless device for context-specific
4 information.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information regarding said wireless device includes
3 determining which of a plurality of available sensors are presently working properly and
4 polling only said sensors that are presently working properly for context-specific
5 information.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information regarding said wireless device is
3 performed before detecting initiation of a network search.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information regarding said wireless device is
3 performed after detecting initiation of a network search.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information regarding said wireless device is
3 performed both before and after detecting initiation of a network search.

1 18. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 transmitting said search query to said remote search engine using a wireless
3 transceiver within said wireless device.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
2 receiving search results from said remote search engine, via said wireless
3 transceiver, in response to said search query, said search results including an indication
4 of context-specific information elements that were used to perform said network search.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
2 obtaining a selection of context-specific information types from said user that
3 said user would like to be included within a repeat network search; and
4 transmitting said selection of context-specific information elements to said
5 remote search engine, using said wireless transceiver, for use in performing another
6 network search.

1 21. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information includes determining which context-
3 specific information to collect based on a type of network search that has been initiated.

1 22. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 collecting context-specific information includes:
3 using a camera on a wireless device to capture at least one image of a
4 surrounding environment;
5 identifying text within said at least one image; and
6 allowing said user to select one or more words or phrases within said
7 identified text for use in a search query.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein:
2 appending context-specific information includes appending said user selected
3 words or phrases to said search query.

1 24. A wireless device comprising:
2 a user interface;
3 a controller to control operation of said wireless device, said controller being in
4 communication with said user interface to accept input from a user and to deliver output
5 to said user;
6 a wireless transceiver to support wireless communication with at least one
7 remote wireless entity; and
8 a camera to capture at least one image of a surrounding environment under
9 control of a user of said wireless device;
10 wherein said controller is programmed to identify text within said at least one
11 image captured by said camera and to display said text to said user to allow said user to

12 select one or more words or phrases within said text for use in generating a network
13 search query for delivery to a remote search engine via said wireless transceiver.

1 25. The wireless device of claim 24, wherein:
2 said at least one image captured by said camera includes multiple relatively low
3 resolution images; and
4 said controller has access to an image scanning function to process said multiple
5 relatively low resolution images captured by said camera to generate a higher resolution
6 image.

1 26. The wireless device of claim 24, wherein:
2 said controller has access to a segmentation function to segment text within said
3 at least one image captured by said camera into individual words.

1 27. The wireless device of claim 24, wherein:
2 said controller has access to an optical character recognition function to translate
3 text within said at least one image into machine recognizable character codes.

1 28. The wireless device of claim 24, wherein:
2 said at least one image captured by said camera includes multiple relatively low
3 resolution images and said controller has access to an image scanning function to
4 process said multiple relatively low resolution images captured by said camera to
5 generate a higher resolution image;
6 said controller has access to a segmentation function to segment text within said
7 at least one image captured by said camera into individual words; and
8 said controller has access to an optical character recognition function to translate
9 text within said at least one image into machine recognizable character codes.

1 29. The wireless device of claim 28, wherein:
2 said controller is programmed to display said text to said user using said
3 machine recognizable character codes.

1 30. The wireless device of claim 24, wherein:
2 said controller is programmed to display said text to said user in menu form.

1 31. The wireless device of claim 24, wherein:
2 said controller is programmed to display said text to said user in highlighted
3 form as part of an image captured by said camera.

1 32. The wireless device of claim 24, wherein:
2 said controller is programmed to request that said user identify a type of search
3 to perform.

1 33. A method comprising:
2 using a camera on a wireless device to capture at least one image of a
3 surrounding environment;
4 identifying text within said at least one image; and
5 displaying said text to a user of said wireless device to allow said user to select
6 one or more words or phrases within said text for use in generating a network search
7 query for delivery to a remote search engine.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein:
2 identifying text includes generating a higher resolution image from a number of
3 lower resolution captured images.

1 35. The method of claim 34, wherein:
2 generating a higher resolution image includes using image stitching software.

1 36. The method of claim 34, wherein:
2 generating a higher resolution image includes using image scanning software.

1 37. The method of claim 33, wherein:
2 identifying text includes segmenting said text into individual words.

1 38. The method of claim 33, wherein:
2 identifying text includes using optical character recognition to translate text
3 images into machine recognizable text characters.

1 39. The method of claim 33, wherein:
2 displaying said text to a user includes displaying a menu of words or phrases to
3 said user.

1 40. The method of claim 33, wherein:
2 displaying said text to a user includes displaying said text as highlighted words
3 or phrases within an image of the surrounding environment.

1 41. The method of claim 33, further comprising:
2 receiving one or more words or phrases selected by said user in response to said
3 displaying; and
4 generating a search query using said one or more words or phrases selected by
5 said user.

1 42. The method of claim 33, further comprising:
2 displaying a list of potential search types to said user to allow said user to
3 choose a search type to perform using said one or more words or phrases selected by
4 said user.

1 43. A wireless device comprising:
2 at least one dipole antenna;
3 a user interface;
4 a controller to control operation of said wireless device, said controller being in
5 communication with said user interface to accept input from a user and to deliver output
6 to said user; and
7 a wireless transceiver, coupled to said at last one dipole antenna, to support
8 wireless communication with at least one remote wireless entity;
9 wherein said controller is programmed to automatically append context-specific
10 information to a network search query to be delivered to a remote search engine via said
11 wireless transceiver when said user is performing a network search.

1 44. The wireless device of claim 43, further comprising:
2 at least one sensor for sensing context-specific information in an environment
3 about said wireless device.

1 45. The wireless device of claim 43, wherein:
2 said user interface includes at least one of the following: a display, a keypad, a
3 keyboard, a touch screen, a stylus, a mouse, scroll buttons, a track ball, a joystick, and
4 control buttons.

1 46. An article comprising a storage medium having instructions stored thereon that,
2 when executed by a computing platform, operate to:
3 detect initiation of a network search within a wireless device;
4 collect context-specific information regarding said wireless device; and
5 append context-specific information to a search query to be delivered to a
6 remote search engine.

1 47. The article of claim 46, wherein to:
2 collect context-specific information regarding said wireless device includes to
3 poll at least one sensor associated with said wireless device for context-specific
4 information.

1 48. The article of claim 46, wherein said storage medium further includes
2 instructions that, when executed by the computing platform, operate to:
3 transmit said search query to said remote search engine; and
4 receive search results from said remote search engine in response to said search
5 query, said search results including an indication of context-specific information types
6 that were used to perform said network search.

1 49. The article of claim 48, wherein said storage medium further includes
2 instructions that, when executed by the computing platform, operate to:
3 obtain a selection of context-specific information types from said user that said
4 user would like to be included within a repeat network search; and
5 transmit said selection of context-specific information types to said remote
6 search engine for use in performing another network search.